



RULES OF CONDUCT

The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library (B&ECPL) serves as a center for information, education and entertainment. Under Article 5, Section 262 of New York State Education Law, the Board of Trustees of the B&ECPL has adopted the following rules to ensure an atmosphere conducive to appropriate use of the services and facilities of the Central Library and its branches. Library users are required to comply with these Rules and Regulations.

The following conduct is prohibited:

1. Engaging in disorderly conduct, fighting or challenging to fight, or using language that offends others;
2. Disturbing other patrons, staff or volunteers (including disruptive behavior such as any loud, unreasonable and/or bothersome noises created by persons or devices; interfering with staff or volunteers in the performance of their duties and persistent, unwelcome attention;
3. Carrying weapons of any kind;
4. Possessing, distributing or consuming alcohol or illegal drugs or being under the influence of alcohol or drugs;
5. Engaging in sexual misconduct (e.g., exposure, inappropriate touching, or sexual harassment of other patrons, staff or volunteers);
6. Damaging, destroying, or stealing any library or personal property;
7. Bringing animals or pets into the library except those required to assist persons with disabilities or those involved in library programs;
8. Selling and/or soliciting;
9. Distributing or posting materials/literature that have not been approved by the Library;
10. Smoking or using tobacco products, and
11. Eating or drinking, except in designated areas.

Under Article 65, Section 3205 of New York State Education Law, "each minor from six to sixteen years or age shall attend upon full time instruction." Accordingly, access to the library during regular school hours (without special permit or previous arrangement with school officials) is denied for minors between the ages of six and sixteen. No children under six years of age may be left unattended in any library at any time. Library staff will not be responsible for children who have been left without adult supervision. Adult patrons who are not engaged in library activities that require materials from the children's area shall be asked to relocate to other areas of the library. The staff reserves the right to seek the intervention of appropriate law enforcement or social services agencies, as required by individual circumstances.

Persons whose actions violate these rules will be advised of their infraction(s). Failure to comply with the Library's established rules and regulations or violations of law may result in immediate suspension of library privileges and, where necessary, civil liability and/or criminal prosecution.

Adopted May 16, 2002
Amended February 20, 2003 and September 28, 2006
Supersedes Rules of Conduct dated May 15, 1997 and
Policy Governing Unattended Children dated April 21, 1988